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REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Meetings of SED university personnel occurred [redacted] in the House of the Kulturbund, at the corner of Jäger and Mauer streets in East Berlin. The conference was called by the SED Central Committee Secretariat. Among the more noteworthy personalities present were: Fred Oelsner of the SED Politbüro, who made the initial speech; Kurt Hager, SED Central Committee, in charge of propaganda; State Secretary Prof. Dr. Gerhard Harig of the Ministry for Education, accompanied by several functionaries. The bulk of the audience was composed of SED members from all DDR universities and scientific institutes.
2. The meetings were convoked to ascertain the political situation in East German academic institutions, to criticize and find remedies for mistakes made by SED organizations in these institutions, and to discuss cooperation between the party and the State Secretariat for Academic Matters (Hochschulwesen).
3. The dominant theme in speeches made by party members during the meetings was that the SED program had not succeeded in DDR academic institutions. The points most stressed were:
 - a) Lack of coordination and cooperation between the SED Central Committee and the State Secretariat for Academic Matters.
 - b) Insufficient contact between the Central Committee and the State Secretariat on one hand, SED members in universities and the East German Academy of Science on the other.
 - c) Lack of sufficient activity and influence by basic trade union and political organizations to sway non-party academic personnel.

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- d) Failure of the party to cope adequately with rebellious students as well as those who are merely apathetic to SED goals.
 - e) Failure of the party to eliminate threats posed by "confessional" academic organizations, such as Protestant associations of students and professors.
 - f) Failure of the SED to persuade students and professors to accept revised study courses with compulsory courses in Marxist sociology and Russian language.
 - g) Inadequacy of many SED teachers.
4. Fred Oelssner gave the keynote speech, emphasizing that SED and trade-union organizations in the universities (Grundorganisationen) had not achieved a balance between their scientific work and the party battle for "peace and freedom". He particularly reproached the audience for not having won over non-party professors and students. Oelssner stated that the future task of the members would be to fulfill a scientific quota in the fight for peace (wissenschaftlicher Soll im Kampf für den Frieden).
 5. Oelssner sharply criticized the State Secretariat for Academic Matters for not maintaining sufficient contact with party authorities, for having developed strong tendencies toward independence (Autonomiebestrebungen), and for condoning exaggerated bureaucratic tendencies. The State Secretariat was told to establish closer relations with the SED Central Committee propaganda department.
 6. State Secretary Harig replied to Oelssner, cataloguing shortcomings of the SED in relations with his Secretariat, while at the same time indulging in self-criticism for many mistakes made by the office. He criticized the inadequacy of party functionaries dealing with academic matters and the lack of cooperation from the propaganda department in such things as repeated failure to answer important letters. Harig also attacked the SED Central Secretariat for having stopped consultations with his office prior to making decisions which concerned State Secretariat work.
 7. Among the criticisms leveled by various speakers during the sessions was the point that students are resisting the SED line. According to Prof. Robert Havemann, there have been instances of open sabotage organized by "violent and impatient" (rabiät und unverschämte) students. In one such case, medical students at Berlin Humboldt University prevented a party speaker, (fnu) Oberdörster, from making a speech. In another instance, cited by Prof. (fnu) Luck of Rostock, white guardist literature (weissgardistische Hetzzeitschriften) was distributed in the Rostock University Rector's office.
 8. (Fnu) Graefrath of the State Secretariat for Academic Matters emphasized student indifference to politics. Grounds for this antipathy were found in several things: the ten-month study period which permits only two months of vacation a year; obligatory study of the Russian language; the "basic sociological study" (Gesellschaftlich-Wissenschaftliches Grundstudium) which includes compulsory courses in Marxism-Leninism, history of the labor movement, and history of the Russian Revolution; and the revised study schedule, according to which all lectures are planned according to party directive.
 9. Overt and covert resistance to the SED dictates was noted on the part of church circles, particularly the Protestant student organization. Prof. Georg Schneider stated that the church in Jena had publicly posted invitations to lectures on art in the middle ages, pedagogy, etc. These lectures were published under the title of "Responsible Science", with the obvious implication that the educational practices of the SED constituted irresponsible science.
 10. State Secretary Harig added that the Evangelische Studentengemeinde had become much more active than previously. This

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activity was particularly noted in lectures by previously inactive professors announced under the sponsorship of the group. Such lectures had taken place in Leipzig, Jena, Halle, Rostock, and Greifswald. Harig stated that religious organizations had succeeded in putting pressure on the FDJ in circumstances which proved unpleasant for the SED.

11. Professors, in their turn, criticized the State Secretariat. Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Steinitz, Finnish-Hungarian-Russian linguist at Humboldt University, cited the restriction placed on contact with West German academic colleagues; He noted especially the unavailability of Western scientific literature; the product of West German minds was available only in crucial economic fields (Schwerpunktsgebiete). Schneider of Jena attacked the provision that papers to be sent from East to West Germany had first to be passed upon by the Kulturbund; dissertations which were to be sent to Eastern nations had to be approved by the Kulturbund as well as by customs authorities. As a result, non-Party professors no longer contribute studies for their colleagues in Satellite or Russian institutions.
12. Debate centered momentarily on the East German Academy of Science. Steinitz complained that in a recent meeting, no mention had been made of the peace treaty issue. The same speaker admonished the propaganda department of the SED Central Committee for lack of guidance given to the Academy on Party line matters.
13. (Fnu) Meissner of the State Secretariat department for basic sociological study condemned the poor performance of teachers in sociological courses. Often they were entirely unprepared for lectures, did not possess the background, and lacked teaching experience. Meissner commented that as a result, students slept during the compulsory lectures.
14. (Fnu) Schneider of Jena turned the audience's attention to biological matters. At one lecture, to be given by a Russian on the Lysenko theory, attendance was limited to one biologist, the speaker; all others present were farmers. In this connection, it was emphasized that the political indoctrination of agricultural students was lacking, in that a number had attended the West Berlin "Grüne Woche" agricultural fair, expecting to learn something. This constituted a failing on the part of the Party's basic organizations since the students had not been instructed sufficiently that farming machinery on display there was for use purely by big landowners and that DDR students could not learn from the exhibition because East German emphasis was on construction of machines for the strengthening of the collectivization of the village (collective farms). The students should also have been shown that only the USSR could teach anything regarding agricultural machine technology.

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